

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

THE SECRETARY

TELEPHONE CALLS, Tuesday, March 15, 1960 *MC*

3:25 - Telephoned Mr. Merchant to ask if the President had reached him since the Secretary had to leave directly after lunch to speak to the Advertising Council. Mr. Merchant said he had and that the President said the reception was favorable; the President didn't put it up by name as the "Norstad Plan" but tied it in with an inspection zone and not as reduction of strength. Secretary said this sounded encouraging and wondered whether this should be kept in NATO or considered by the Four Power Group. Secy and Mr. Merchant agreed it should go to Four Power group. 2) Mr. Merchant said Amb. Lodge said von Brentano told him Adenauer was very pleased by his talks with the President and that all his fears were removed. Secy and Mr. Merchant agreed it was too bad his confidence was so short lived and that he required such frequent jboosters.

